



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District®

News Release

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Contact: Danny McClendon
(314) 331-8574
Public Affairs Office
(314) 331-8068/8002

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1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

Corps Holds Public Hearing on Howard Bend DEIS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District and City of Maryland Heights, Mo., will conduct a public workshop and public hearing, May 12 to inform interested persons about a Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) on cumulative and future impacts to the Howard Bend Floodplain Area and to discuss its contents. The study focuses on the area along the Missouri River in Maryland Heights and Chesterfield, Mo., from approximate Missouri River mile 29.6 to 38.4, along the right descending bank of the river in St. Louis County, Mo. Most of this area is currently protected by the Howard Bend Levee.

The workshop and hearing will take place at the City of Maryland Heights Community Center, 2344 McKelvey Road, Maryland Heights, Mo. The public workshop, for people to learn about the study, will take place from 4 to 6 p.m., with the public hearing following in the same location from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The purpose of the workshop is to inform the public about the cumulative and secondary impacts of developments in this area. Corps and city experts will be on hand to answer questions.

The public hearing will provide the opportunity to officially comment on the DEIS. Comments on the DEIS will be accepted until June 7. All interested parties are encouraged to attend this hearing.

Corps Regulatory officials explain that many activities have impacted the aquatic environment and fish and wildlife resources in this reach of floodplain. These include construction of the Earth City Levee, Riverport Levee, current construction to raise the Monarch-Chesterfield Levee to a 500+-year level of protection, current construction to raise the Howard Bend Levee to a 500+-year level of protection, completion of the Page Avenue Extension Project, the proposal to construct the Maryland Heights Expressway (Earth City Expressway Extension), the proposal to implement the Maryland Heights Master Land Use Plan for this area, and resultant commercial and industrial development and agricultural conversions.

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While there are currently no pending regulatory permits for proposed development projects within this area under study, the St. Louis District has prepared the DEIS to address the cumulative impacts that have occurred to the aquatic resources in this area from permitted activities, as well as to address the impacts to the environment for several large projects forecast in the future, that may require Section 404 permits (Department of the Army permits to conduct activities in the Waters of the United States, including wetlands.)

The St. Louis District hopes the EIS will also aide in developing a Strategic Area Management Plan (SAMP) for the area.

A copy of the DEIS can be viewed on the St. Louis District Web Page at: <http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/permits/whatsNew.htm>. Comments and requests for additional information should be mailed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, ATTN: CEMVS-CO-F (Danny McClendon), 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833.

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EDITORS NOTE:

- WHO: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District and City of Maryland Heights, Mo.
- WHAT: Public workshop and hearing on a DRAFT Environmental Impact Statement on cumulative and future impacts to the Howard Bend Floodplain Area.
- WHEN: The public workshop, for people to learn about the study, will take place from 4 to 6 p.m., with the public hearing following in the same location from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- WHERE: City of Maryland Heights Community Center, 2344 McKelvey Road, Maryland Heights, Mo.
- WHY: To inform the public about the cumulative and secondary impacts of developments in this area and to provide the opportunity to officially comment on the DEIS.